

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01872 181203Z

70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /088 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN GB BX

SUBJECT: BONGOS VISIT TO MEXICO

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT STATE VISIT TO MEXICO SEPTEMBER 11-15 BY GOG PRESIDENT BONGO RESULTED IN SIGNATURE OF "COOPERATION AGREEMENTS" IN AREAS OF TECHNOLOGICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS. BONGO TOLD PRESS AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA THAT GABON WOULD "OPEN ITS DOORS TO MEXICAN INVESTMENTS" IN TRUCK AND AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLY PLANTS, CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY, AND MANUFACTURE OF SYNTHETIC FIBERS. BONGO ALSO REPORTEDLY PROPOSED GABONESE-MEXICAN "COOPERATION" IN CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS AND HYDRO- ELECTIRC POWER PLANTS, IRRIGATION PROJECTS, AND PORT CONSTRUCTION. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MEXICAN PRESIDENT REPLIED WITH OFFER TO PUT MEXICAN INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES " AT DISPOSITIONOF GABONESE TECHNOLOGICAL MISSIONS."

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2. COMMENT: WHILE FINAL JUDGEMENT MUST OF COURSE AWAIT FULLER REPORTING FROM MEXICO ON VISIT, LOCAL ACCOUNTS SUGGEST THIS MAY BE ANOTHER CASE(AS MOST RECELTY WITH PHILIPPINES) OF DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS OF RELATIONSHIP. IN CULTIVATING BILATERAL TIES AROUND THE WORLD, BONGO USUALLY HOPES FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS IN FORM OF LONG TERM FINANCING ONF GOODS AND SERVICES. MANY INTERLOCUTORS, ON OTHER HAND, SEE GAON AS SMALL BUT RICH MARKEDT WHICH PRSUMALBT CAN PAY CASH FOR TECHNICIANS AND MATERIAL SIT REQUIRES. PARTICULARLTY IN LIGHT AMBITIOUS NATURE OF PROJECTS SUGGESTED BY BONGO TO PRESS, WE SUSPECT GOG MAY GET CONSIDERABLY LESS FROM MEXICAN CONNECTION THAN IT WOULD LIKE UNLESS GOM HAS ITS OWN REASONS FOR BEING MORE FORTHCOMING THAN PURE ECONOMICS WOULD SEEM TO WARRANT. STEIGMAN

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